We claim:

1. A method for determining active plasminogen activator inhibitor-Type 1 (PAI-1) in a biological fluid, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a sample of a biological fluid; and

(ii) measuring the amount of PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin complex in the sample to determine active PAI-1 in the sample.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample either simultaneously or stepwise with a first antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1 and a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin; and

(b) determining the second antibody bound to the complex to measure the amount of PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin complex in the sample.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample either simultaneously or stepwise with a first antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin and a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1; and

(b) determining the second antibody bound to the complex to measure the amount of PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin complex in the sample.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample either simultaneously or stepwise with a first antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1 and a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin;

(b) separating the PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin/first antibody/second

antibody complex formed in step (a) from the sample; and

(c) determining the second antibody bound to the complex to measure the amount of PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin complex in the sample.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample either simultaneously or stepwise with a first antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin and a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1;

(b) separating the PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin/first antibody/second antibody complex formed in step (a) from the sample; and

(c) determining the second antibody bound to the complex to measure the amount of PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin complex in the sample.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises the steps of :

(a) simultaneously contacting the sample with a first antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1, the first antibody being immobilised on a solid support, and with a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin ; and

(b) determining the second antibody bound to the solid support to measure the amount of PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin complex in the sample.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises the steps of :

(a) contacting the sample with a first antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1, the first antibody being immobilised on a solid support;

(b) contacting the solid support with a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin ; and

(c) determining the second antibody bound to the solid support to measure the amount of PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin complex in

11. The method of claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample with a first antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin, the first antibody being immobilised on a solid support;

(b) contacting the solid support with a second antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1;

(c) contacting the solid support with a labelled third antibody which binds selectively to the second antibody; and

(d) determining the third antibody bound to the solid support to measure the amount of PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin complex in the sample.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample, either simultaneously or stepwise, with a first antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1 and to which is attached one member of a capture pair and with a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin to form a mixture;

(b) contacting the mixture with a solid support on which is immobilised the other member of the capture pair; and

(c) determining the second antibody bound to the solid support to measure the amount of PAI-1/multimeric vitronectin complex in the sample.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein step (ii) comprises the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample either simultaneously or stepwise, with a first antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin and to which is attached one member of a capture pair and with a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1 to form a mixture;

(b) contacting the mixture with a solid support on which is

21. The method of any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein the second antibody is labelled with a luminescent material.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the luminescent material is selected from the group consisting of a cyclic diacyl hydrazide, luminol, isoluminol, an acridinium ester, a pyridopyridazine, a dioxerane, a bioluminescent protein and a luciferase.

23. The method of any one of claims 1 to 15 wherein the second antibody is labelled with a label selected from the group consisting of a metal complex, a stable free radical, a vesicle, a liposome, a colloidal particle, a latex particle, a spin label and biotin/avidin.

24. The method of any one of claims 6 to 13 wherein the solid support is selected from the group consisting of an ELISA plate, a polyacrylamide matrix, a polystyrene tube, polystyrene beads, latex particles, paramagnetic particles, acrylic particles and gelatin particles.

25. A kit for determining active PAI-1 in a biological fluid comprising:

(a) a first antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1; and

(b) a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin.

26. A kit for determining active PAI-1 in a biological fluid comprising:

(a) a first antibody which binds selectively to multimeric vitronectin; and;

(b) a labelled second antibody which binds selectively to PAI-1.

27. The kit of claim 25 or 26 wherein said first antibody is immobilised on a solid support.